



Restaurant Associations Support Smokefree

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National Restaurant Association Supports Smokefree Air

- A majority of National Restaurant Association members support smokefree establishments.
- In a 2003 survey of National Restaurant Association members, 56 percent of the restaurateurs said, "they believe a smoking ban would not hurt business."
- According to the National Restaurant Association, 50 percent of owners want smokefree environments.

Pennsylvania Restaurant Association Supports Smokefree Air

The Pennsylvania Restaurant Association has announced it supports smokefree air in the workplace, including bars, restaurants, casinos, offices and manufacturing plants. Restaurant owners know the health effects of secondhand smoke and with the recent report by Surgeon General Richard Carmona they are taking a closer look of how secondhand smoke affects their guests and employees.

"The recent studies concerning hospitality employees and the incidence of lung cancer and heart disease related to secondhand smoke...it's hard to not look at the evidence," said Pennsylvania Restaurant Association president Kevin Joyce. "Our employees are important to us, and their health is important to us, and the cost of their health insurance is important to us."

Wisconsin Restaurant Association Supports Smokefree Air

On Feb. 7, 2007, the Wisconsin Restaurant Association (WRA) announced its support for statewide legislation to create smokefree work environments for bar and restaurant employees in Wisconsin.

The decision to support statewide legislation in Wisconsin was made at a Jan. 30 board of directors meeting and was passed by a 36 to 1 vote. Supporting statewide legislation versus local legislation allows level playing fields for all restaurants.



“Many say that they would like to ban smoking on their own, but they can’t go it alone. They feel they would be able to keep most of their smoking customers if the government banned smoking, but not if they did it (alone),” according to the WRA Web site.

The Wisconsin legislation would require all bars, taverns and restaurants to have smokefree environments.

The WRA represents more than 7,000 food service businesses in Wisconsin and provides trade information and services that allow businesses to run more effectively.

Texas Restaurant Association Supports Smokefree Air

On Feb. 26, 2007, the Texas Restaurant Association (TRA) announced its support for statewide legislation to create smokefree work environments for bar and restaurant employees in Texas.

The decision to support statewide legislation to create smokefree bars and restaurants was passed by a unanimous vote by the TRA Board of Directors. Supporting statewide legislation versus local legislation allows a level playing field for all restaurants.

“TRA members recognize that the current disparities that exist in smoking bans enacted at the local level have had a detrimental impact on the restaurant industry in Texas,” said Richie Jackson, TRA executive vice president/CEO. “By applying an equitable ban that is enforced in all workplaces, we will ensure a level playing field and the \$32 billion Texas restaurant industry will continue its vital role in our state’s economy.”

TRA serves to advocate for the 60,000 restaurants and 939,900 employees in the hospitality and foodservice industry.